VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before paragraph **[0001]**, add the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before paragraph **[0005]**, add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Delete paragraph **[0006]**.

Before paragraph **[0013]**, add the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Before paragraph **[0018]**, add the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 8, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 to 11 without prejudice.

Add the following claims:

12. (New) A winding core for use in a linear motor, comprising a yoke having protruding teeth that define slots for receiving at least one winding, wherein each tooth has a yoke-proximal portion and yoke-distal portion, wherein the yoke-proximal portion has in a direction perpendicular to a movement direction of the linear motor a lateral dimension which is greater than a lateral dimension of the yoke-distal portion.

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cont.

13. (New)   The winding core of claim 12, wherein the dimension of the yoke-proximal portion on one side is greater by about 5% than the dimension of the yoke-distal portion.

14. (New)   The winding core of claim 12, wherein the dimension of the yoke-proximal portion on each side is greater by up to 5% than the dimension of the yoke-distal portion.

15. (New)   The winding core of claim 13, wherein the teeth are arranged in symmetry in a direction perpendicular to the movement direction of the linear motor.

16   (New)   The winding core of claim 13, wherein each tooth is formed with at least one shoulder to thereby widen the dimension of the yoke-proximal portion.

17. (New)   The winding core of claim 13, wherein each tooth is formed with a slanted transition between the yoke-proximal portion and the yoke-distal portion.

18. (New) The winding core of claim 13, wherein the yoke-distal portion of each tooth begins at a location which is distant from the yoke by not more than half a tooth length.

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19. (New) The winding core of claim 13, wherein the yoke-distal portion is connected to the yoke-proximal portion by a continuously expanding transition.

20. (New) The winding core of claim 13, wherein the yoke has a lateral dimension which corresponds to the lateral dimension of the yoke-proximal portion of each tooth.

21. (New) The winding core of claim 13, wherein the yoke has a lateral dimension which corresponds over its entire length to the lateral dimension of the yoke-proximal portion of each tooth.

22. (New) A linear motor, comprising:

a primary part; and

a secondary part;

wherein at least one of the primary part and the secondary part has a winding core including a yoke having protruding teeth that define slots for receiving at least one winding, wherein each tooth has a yoke-proximal portion and yoke-distal portion, wherein the yoke-proximal portion has in a direction perpendicular to a movement direction of the linear motor a lateral dimension which exceeds a lateral dimension of the yoke-distal portion.

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23. (New)   The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the dimension of the yoke-proximal portion on one side is greater by about 5% than the dimension of the yoke-distal portion.

24. (New)   The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the dimension of the yoke-proximal portion on each side is greater by up to 5% than the dimension of the yoke-distal portion.

25. (New)   The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the teeth are arranged in symmetry in a direction perpendicular to the movement direction of the linear motor.

26. (New)   The linear motor of claim 23, wherein each tooth is formed with at least one shoulder to thereby widen the dimension of the yoke-proximal portion.

27. (New)   The linear motor of claim 22, wherein each tooth is formed with a slanted transition between the yoke-proximal portion and the yoke-distal portion.

28. (New)   The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the yoke-distal portion of each tooth begins at a location which is distant from the yoke by not more than half a tooth length.

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conc.

29. (New) The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the yoke-distal portion is connected to the yoke-proximal portion by a continuously expanding transition.

30. (New) The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the yoke has a lateral dimension which corresponds to the lateral dimension of the yoke-proximal portion.

31. (New) The linear motor of claim 22, wherein the yoke has a lateral dimension which corresponds over its entire length to the lateral dimension of the yoke-proximal portion.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application.

Applicant has canceled original claims 1 to 11 and submits herewith new claims 12 to 31 to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the invention notwithstanding applicant's belief that the claims would have been allowable as originally filed. Accordingly, applicant asserts that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of the *Festo*-decision. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000)(en banc). In addition, applicant has amended the specification to present it in proper form and language by providing proper headings and deleting any reference to particular claim numbers.

When the Examiner takes this application up for action, he is requested to take the foregoing into account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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